

Message Text

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67

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 IO-10 CU-04 /087 W
----- 030759

R 051400Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4449

AMCONSUL DURBAN

INFO AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

UNCLAS CAPE TOWN 0254

E.O.11652:N/A

TAGS :PINT,SHUM,SF,FR

SUBJ :SAG ALLOWS 'MIXED'RUGBY AND CRICKET TEAMS

1. IN DIRECT RESPONSE TO INTERNATIONAL AND DOMESTIC PRESSURE, SAG ANNOUNCED MARCH 4 THAT SELECTION OF 'MULTINATIONAL'RUGBY TEAM TO PLAY ONE MATCH AGAINST VISITING FRENCH TEAM WILL BE ALLOWED. MINISTER OF SPORT, DR.P.G.J.KOORNHOF,SAID CABINET-LEVEL DECISION WAS MADE BECAUSE OF REQUEST BY FRENCH RUGBY UNION TO PLAY MIXED TEAM DURING UPCOMING VISIT TO SOUTH AFRICA. CABINET ALSO APPROVED REQUEST FOR MIXED CRICKET TEAM TO PLAY VISITING BRITISH TEAM.

2. KOORNHOF MAD CLEAR THAT SELECTION WOULD BE BY 'INVITATION ONLY'. AND THAT THIS DECISION 'DOES NOT MEAN THAT THERE IS A CHANGE IN THE GOVERNMENT POSITION'. HE SAID SPORT ON CLUB, PROVINCIAL AND NATIONAL LEVEL WOULD CONTINUE'TO BE PLAYED BY VARIOUS RACIAL GROUPS SEPARATELY'.

3. COMMENT: WHILE SAG MAY ARGUE THAT THIS DECISION IS NOT UNCLASSIFIED

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A CHANGE IN POLICY, IT WILL BE SEEN AS SUCH BY MANY

PROPONENTS AS WELL AS OPPONENTS OF PRESENT SPORTS POLICY.
ISSUE OF MULTINATIONAL(I.E.MULTIRACIAL) TEAMS HAS BEEN
HOTLY DEBATED WITHIN NATIONAL PARTY WHILE INTERNATIONAL
PRESSURE HAS STEADILY PUSHED SOUTH AFRICA CLOSER TO VIRTUAL
ISOLATION IN WORLD SPORT. WHILE SOME CONCESSIONS HAVE BEEN
MADE IN OTHER SPORTS, LINE HAS BEEN DRAWN AT RUGBY AND
CRICKET. DECISION TO ALLOW 'INVITATIONAL'MIXED TEAM IS
APPARENT COMPROMISE WHICH WILL LEAVE MANY ON BOTH SIDES
OF QUESTION UNHAPPY.

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